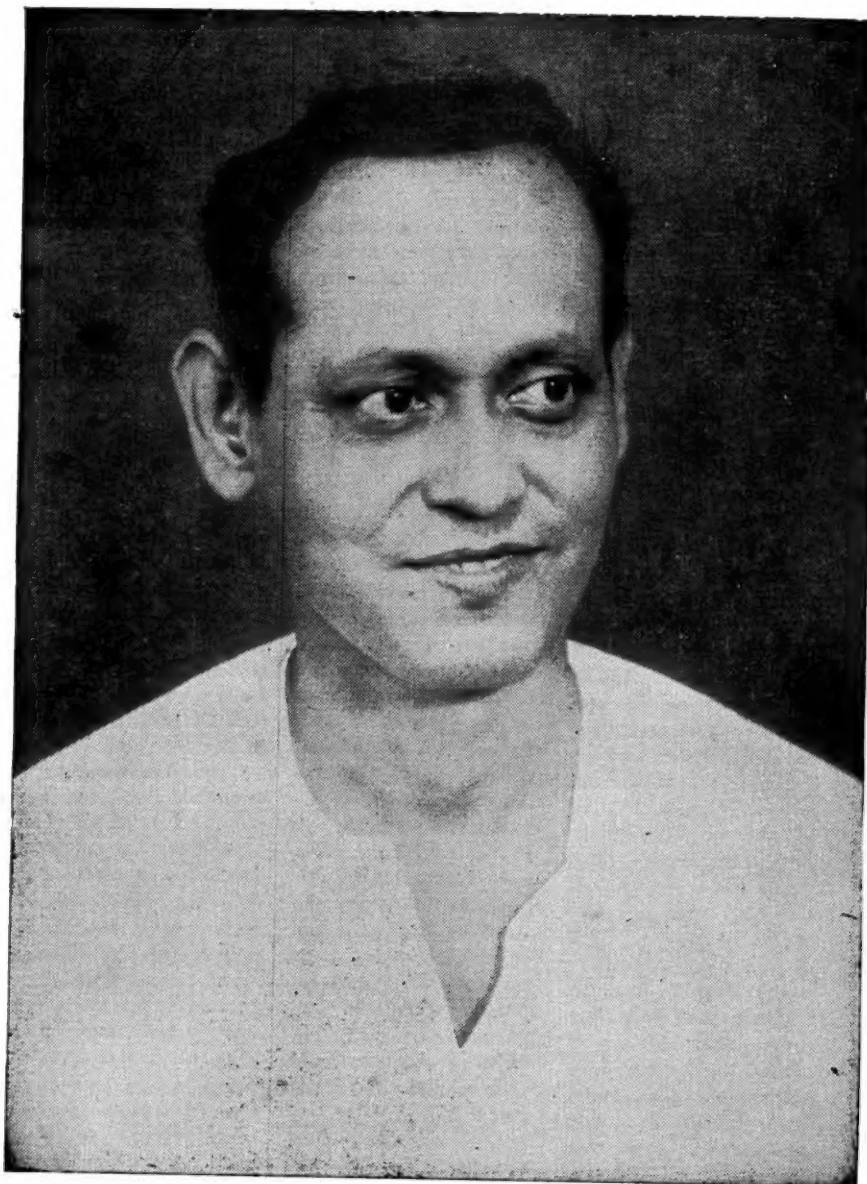


An Ardent Communist Leader, a Life-Long Revolutionary Comrade Subodh Banerjee is no more



Proletarian Era

ORGAN OF SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE
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MEMORIAL ISSUE

Central Committee's Homage

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, General Secretary of Socialist Unity Centre of India, immediately after the premature demise of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, made the following tribute to the memory of the departed leader :

"The Central Committee of our party records its deepest shock at the premature demise of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, a member of the Central Committee and Polit Bureau and a front ranking leader of our party, a fearless fighter in the working class movement and a beloved leader of the oppressed people of our country.

"The Central Committee firmly believes that the way in which Comrade Banerjee was able to successfully come out as a true and undaunted communist revolutionary leader holding aloft the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism and revolution by conducting ceaseless struggles surrendering

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A Life-Long Revolutionary

Comrade Subodh Banerjee, a member of the Central Committee and Polit Bureau of our party, the Socialist Unity Centre of India and an outstanding leader of the toiling masses was born on the 25th December, 1918 at Rajpur village under Sonarpur P. S. in the district of 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

After finishing his College education, he took up teaching profession in a school. While residing permanently in Joynagar he involved himself wholeheartedly in various social welfare services and soon became well-known as a dedicated social worker. During this phase of his life, Comrade Banerjee came in close contact with Comrade Sachin Banerjee, an outstanding freedom fighter and devoted organiser of the area who is now a revered member of the Central Committee of our party. It is with the help of Comrade Sachin Banerjee that he came in contact with our beloved leader and teacher, Com. Shibdas Ghosh, in the early part of the year, 1946.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts, political ideology and personal association made such a deep imprint in him and influenced him so profoundly that it brought about a total change in Comrade Banerjee's life course and since then he took up Marxism-Leninism as the philosophy of life. Armed with the revolutionary philosophy enriched and concretised by Com. Shibdas Ghosh in India's concrete condition, Com. Subodh Banerjee plunged body and soul into the revolutionary political tide of our country and till the last breath of his life he was steadfast in building himself up as an unflinching revolutionary with singular devotion of mind. He thus earned the great honour of joining the pioneer revolutionaries in our land like Comrades, Nihar Mukherjee, Sachin Banerjee, Hiren Sarkar, Pritish Chanda, Sankar

Singh and others who under the great teachings and guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh were conducting the fiercest battle with exemplary zeal and dedication to develop the genuine Communist Party on Indian soil, the Socialist Unity Centre of India.

Educated and trained by the revolutionary ideology, ethics and culture of our party, Comrade Banerjee, like other front rank leaders of our party, engaged himself also with full vigour and devotion to the unceasing battle to carve himself out as a true revolutionary in all aspects of life and in this scientific process of identification of personal life with party life he gave up service and everything personal. By virtue of unstinted efforts, grasping the revolutionary purpose of life he could steadily elevate himself in the leading rank of our party. Linking up with revolutionary purpose he showed exemplary self-initiative and constant attempts to improve his efficiency and ability in matters connected with concrete problems of people's struggles. It is because of this harmonious combination of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's great revolutionary thoughts with Comrade Banerjee's excellence in their presentation mixing them with concrete questions that he became such a revered and accepted leader of the toiling masses.

While, therefore, all other political parties were busy mainly in organising the rural rich and well-to-do peasants in the country side, Comrade Banerjee, in conformity with the strategy of Socialist Revolution formulated and enunciated in Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts, devoted his unflagging energies in carrying Comrade Ghosh's thoughts and analyses to the agricultural labourers and poor peasants to inspire them to rally under the banner of their own class organisation

Krishak & Khet Majoor Federation (K.K.M.F.) the first of its kind in our soil.

In the early part of his political life he worked tirelessly to build up the organisation among the agricultural labourers and poor peasants in the vast area of Sundarbans. And in doing so he had to organise many heroic fights against various oppressions and rapacity of the Jotedars on the legitimate demands of 'Tebhaga' (two-third share of produce) and increase in wages for the agricultural labourers. He was the President of West Bengal K. and K. M. F. and took a prominent role in organising it in West Bengal and other states of India. Through such a direct and living link with the life and problems of agricultural labourers and poor peasants, he was able to acquire vast experience and knowledge about the agrarian system of our country, the grinding capitalist land relation and its working in diverse forms at times camouflaged under old mode and their only logical solution in anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution. And it is the pitiable plight of the landless labourers, poor and middle peasants mingled with revolutionary purpose that impelled him to put up such a spirited fight inside the West Bengal Assembly for a thorough-going radical land reforms when the Zamindari Abolition Bill came up for adoption. It was due to his crusader's zeal that he was able to wrest a few important gains for the poor peasantry from the bourgeois rulers through acceptance by the Assembly only some among his more than hundred amendment proposals.

Comrade Banerjee's creative role did not exhaust in peasant front only. He also played a leading role in the working class movement in India. He was the Vice-President of the All India Committee UTUC (Lenin Sarani), the president of the West

Bengal unit of the organisation and was directly connected with a large number of trade unions. He also had a leading role in building up organisation among Bank employees, teachers, University employees, Fire Brigade workers and many such sections of workers and employees. He had an unquestionable knowledge of the labour-laws and rich experiences on different problems of the workers of our country. He has left behind deep imprint and ample evidence about his firm grip over labour-laws and skilful application of them in furtherance of worker's interest before various tribunals, labour courts and adjudications.

People will bear with us that after the general election in the West Bengal State Assembly in 1967 when the two contesting electoral fronts, ULF and PULF merged into one United Front to form the government in the State, our West Bengal State Committee under the teachings and guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh made our party's fundamental outlook and approach as regards conduction of the Front Government amply clear to the leaders of different parties comprising the Front. It was, now famous, the principle; "Police must not interfere in the legitimate democratic movements of the people" based on the concretised Marxist-Leninist approach formulated and enunciated by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Our party then made it known to the leaders of different political parties that so long the Front would not accept this guiding principle and approach as regards conduction of the government there couldn't be any question of our party joining the government but would extend its support with all the strength at its command to keep the Front Govern-

ment in power against the conspiracies of the reactionary forces to topple it but would also reserve the right to organise people's movement against the UF Government if and when it took any measure that would militate against the interest of the people. People would well remember also that when our party gave out this basic outlook, what was the reaction of the big left party which was the biggest partner of the Front. The leaders who represented this party in Front meetings taunted our party leaders by saying that "we cannot allow such a situation that while we will have to bear the brunt of the entire responsibility of the Front Government, you will be given the chance to pose yourselves as revolutionary without caring to share any responsibility imposed upon all of us by the people". Our party, in reply to this insinuation, made it abundantly clear that we were not averse to taking any responsibility, rather we were ready to face any odd that would crop up before the Front Government provided it accepted our suggestion which involved the basic political stand point of our party, which under no circumstances we could sacrifice. We firmly held that unless we could develop United Front Government as an instrument of struggle conducive to the interest of building and strengthening the legitimate democratic movements of the oppressed people in spite of the existence of the capitalist state and its constitutional limitation, the Front Government would be qualitatively no different from the Congress Governments of the past. It may be recalled, in this connection, that this is why our party could not join the left front which raised the slogan of forming alternate government in West Bengal in 1962

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A Life-Long Revolutionary

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before the elections, since all the major left parties rejected our basic suggestion that in the event of emergence of any Front Government the "police must not be allowed to interfere in the legitimate democratic movement of the people". So the question of our joining the cabinet rested entirely on the acceptance of this basic principle and was, in no way, prompted by any evasive attitude or opportunistic consideration. The basic principle was brilliantly elucidated by our leader, teacher and our General Secretary Com. Shibdas Ghosh. He said: "Every student of ethics and jurisprudence knows that everything legal is not always justified and moral. Naturally everything illegal in the eye of the law is not necessarily unjustified, illegitimate and immoral." It is this brilliant exposition of Com. Ghosh's thought that formed the basis of our suggestion in the Front that "police must not interfere in the legitimate democratic movement of the people."

And due to the principled and firm stand that our party took up and the political pressure of the people, the leaders of the biggest partner as well as of other parties relented by giving verbal acceptance of the guiding principle in question provided by our party. But the big left parties feared very much to take up the responsibility of Labour Ministry because of the serious recession prevailing in the country's capitalist economy. There was therefore not much scope, perhaps, according to their line of thinking to show superiority in politics in the shape of bringing concession from the bourgeoisie for distribution to people and thereby gain popularity and reap political dividends. So these parties kept reserved the Labour Portfolio in the ministry for SUCI. Some of the smaller parties in the Front from their friendly

concern for our party were also advising not to accept Labour Portfolio as that would mean surely to fall in trap laid by the big parties. But reared by the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh our party showed its mettle by accepting the challenge and decided to take up the Labour Portfolio even under extremely adverse condition. Comrade Subodh Banerjee was entrusted with the solemn responsibility to translate the guiding principle formulated and enunciated by our party under Com. Shibdas Ghosh's leadership by joining as Labour Minister in the first UF Ministry. And it is with pride that our party and the people will remember that it was the first act of Comrade Subodh Banerjee as the State's Labour Minister to announce that the guiding principle of the State's Labour Ministry would be "police must not interfere in legitimate democratic movement of the working people" and thus translating it into reality for the first time in the Labour Ministry of the first UF Government.

This created an immediate stir not only in India but also outside. It also set in motion a new surge in labour movement not only in the state of West Bengal but in all corners of the country. For the first time in our country 'gherao' appeared as a powerful form in the working class movement. But the big left parties who were earlier reluctant to take the Labour Portfolio, now, not caring to realise the revolutionary significance of the measure were all eager to seize the opportunity from a petty sectarian angle to build up so-called strength in the labour front. From their short-sighted opportunistic views they made misapplications of the powerful weapon 'gherao' and committed excesses. The monopolists and industrialists, national and foreign who had sensed danger in the revolutionary

potential of the new policy and the movement were already panicky and lost no time in raising storm to discredit the entire content of the new idea and the movement taking advantage of the opportunist lines of the left other parties.

But despite the concerted efforts of the bourgeoisie both within and outside the ministry to reverse the new policy, the inherent strength of the new idea formulated and enunciated by our party under the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh left a deep imprint in the labour movement of our country.

At this trying moment, Comrade Subodh Banerjee with his unceasing devotion fought heroically both within and outside the ministry to stick to the basic policy formulated by our party and was successful to keep the legitimate trade union movement free from the interference of police and bureaucracy. This courage of conviction and dedication to the cause of working people earned for him a place of esteem as a tested and trusted leader of the toiling masses.

The first UF Government in West Bengal could not bring in any material gains worth mentioning to the working people but it could provide them with a deadly weapon, the new labour policy and the awakening about the world to conquer. It is because of this new awareness and the first taste of freedom to organise their legitimate democratic movement that the people gave a massive mandate to the UF for the second time in the mid-term poll in spite of the fact that rice was sold at Rs. 5/- per K.g. which caused serious hardship to the people in 1969. But despite this solid fact Comrade Banerjee was not given the Labour Portfolio but instead a minor portfolio of PWD was allotted to him in the second UF Ministry. The real motive of snatching Labour Portfolio from Comrade Banerjee was soon revealed. The labour policy in the second UF Ministry,

though not spelling it out openly, actually discouraged 'gherao' a powerful form of collective bargaining in working class movement, which later events proved, and confined the labour movement again within the bounds of adjudication. The declared policy of the first UF Government about non-interference of police in legitimate democratic movement if not subverted openly was actually perverted into non-interference of police in whatever acts legitimate or otherwise that the cadres of the biggest partner in the UF were doing. Thus an idea pregnant with such revolutionary potentiality that came from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts which Comrade Subodh Banerjee fought so vigorously to save from the concentrated attacks of the bourgeoisie even from his hospital bed where he lay, as Labour Minister in 1967 as victim of Leukemia for the first time, was perverted by those from within the ministry who, with profound grief

we must remember today, had not the slightest qualms of conscience to spread the canard that Comrade Banerjee's admission in hospital was just a political subterfuge!

But even within a very short time at his disposal as the Labour Minister of the first UF Government Comrade Subodh Banerjee, introduced, for the first time since Independence, some very important administrative reforms which went a long way in speedy disposal of industrial disputes, ensuring better medical care and attention through improved ESI scheme etc. He also initiated some radical changes in the existing Trade Union and labour laws and tried to bring in whatever benefits that could be possible within the bourgeois structure, to the working people; but as the United Front Ministry did not last long and the necessary constitutional requirement of the President's assent was also wanting, the six bills drafted by him on regularisation of casual workers, Subsistence Allowance during suspension period,

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TRIBUTES

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee

Secretary, West Bengal State Committee

"We express our deep sorrow at the passing away of Com. Subodh Banerjee, a member of the Central Committee and Polit Bureau, of the party, a beloved leader, an ardent revolutionary and a resolute fighter for the cause of toiling millions of our country. Com. Banerjee, all through his life has untiringly devoted himself to advance the cause of proletarian revolution and remained in the fore-front of democratic mass struggles. We dip the red banner in salute to the glorious life of Com. Subodh Banerjee and call upon all the party comrades to resolutely carry forward the unaccomplished task of people's liberation which was so dear to our departed leader".

Comrade Sudhindra Pramanik

Comrade Sudhindra Pramanik, General Secretary, personally and on behalf of the All India Committee of U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani) felt overwhelmed with deep sorrow and loss at the untimely demise of his longtime friend and associate, Com. Subodh Banerjee. He paid the UTUC (Lenin Sarani)'s and his tribute to the departed as one of the most popular and ablest ministers in the U.F. Governments and a valiant fighter in the Front rank of the progressive and revolutionary struggles of the working class and toiling multitude in India and West Bengal in particular for the overthrow of Capitalism, Fascism and Neo-Fascism. He added that to carry forward the struggle to victory will be the only fitting tribute to his memory.

Comrade Subodh Banerjee, member of the Polit Bureau and Central Committee of the SUCI, member of the West Bengal Secretariat of the party, Vice-President of All-India Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani), President of West Bengal Committee of UTUC (Lenin Sarani), Krishak-O-Khet Majoor Federation and many other Unions and Associations, a renowned political leader of West Bengal and of India as such, and above all, a profound revolutionary, a heroic fighter and leader of democratic mass movements of all sections of the toiling people has breathed his last on 16th September in the morning in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. Although we were aware that his death was imminent, because of the incurable disease of Leukemia he was long suffering from, despite the most modern medical treatment meted out to him, all-out attention of the party, constant supply of fresh blood by the party volunteers and capping all these, the patient's own supreme effort and determination to survive the present crisis, still, Com. Subodh Banerjee's passing away has caused a deep shock and river of grief to all the party comrades, supporters and sympathisers and all his admirers whose numbers are legion.

No sooner had the news of his death spread outside and his body was taken at the Central Party office at 10 A.M. than the place near the office, the Lenin Sarani-Wellington crossing area had turned into a sea of grief-stricken humanity. Thousands of persons began to assemble to pay their last respects to the departed revolutionary leader. As the gathering swelled unabatedly as long as the body was kept in the office, the leaders, the workers and supporters of our party and different mass organisations, the leaders of all other political parties and mass organisations, some prominent individuals and admirers of Com. Banerjee and common members of all walks of life came forward one by one to express their deep sorrow and profound respect for him and placed wreath on the body of the great revolutionary. On behalf of the Central Committee of the SUCI, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader, teacher and the General Secretary placed wreath on his body and paid revolutionary tribute to the glorious life of his great compatriot who proved himself a thorough going revolutionary till the last minute of his life. Com. Sachin Banerjee and Com. Hiren Sarkar, members of the Central Committee, Com. Nihar Mukherjee also a member of the Central Committee, on behalf of the West Bengal

State Committee of the SUCI and many other leaders of the party and its mass organisations paid tribute to the departed leader and placed wreath on his body. So also the leaders of all other political parties and various mass organisations stood in the queue to pay their last respects.

At 4 P.M., in the scorching heat of the sun, when the body of Com. Banerjee was placed on a flower-bedecked platform in a lorry decorated with red flags and banners, the Lenin Sarani in front of the office turned out to be a vast sea of humanity. The entire atmosphere was surcharged with deep emotion and sorrow for the loss to

our people of such a precious life. Persons from different walks of life, starting from a manual worker to an intellectual had waited there for hours together only to have a glimpse of their beloved leader, one who had fought for their cause, wholly dedicated himself to develop and organise their battle against all injustice and exploitation, and unfailingly shown the purpose of life of a real man, a real revolutionary. Such a man who had lived with them and dreamt their own dreams, had sung the song of people's emancipation from the savage rule of the Indian capitalists, cannot but be a man close to their heart, a man to be followed in practice and ideology in struggles which are going on or yet to be organised. So only to mourn, to weep, has no

not a grief that weakens and kills revolutionary initiative. It is a grief that carries the message of further initiative, more resolute struggle and determination to fulfil the still-awaited object of his noble life.

It was this message which was in the heart of those who joined the long procession with the body of the revolutionary flanked by large people on both sides eagerly awaiting their turn to pay their homage and have a last glimpse of the departed great leader.

Despite ill health the procession was led by our beloved leader and teacher, our General Secretary, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh along with Comrades, Sachin Banerjee, a senior member of the Central Committee and

party including Comrades, Ashutosh Banerjee, Tapas Dutta (Secretary, Orissa State Committee), Asit Bhattacharjee (Secretary, Assam State Committee), Ranjit Dhar, Robi Bose, Provash Ghosh, Anil Sen, Prativa Mukherjee and others. In the front of the procession, hundreds of party cadres with half-mast red flags in their hands and red banner on which was inscribed 'Red Salute to Comrade Subodh Banerjee' marched ahead. The vehicle carrying the body of the revolutionary and fittingly decorated with red flags and festoons slowly moved, and was followed by thousands of party workers, supporters and common people. As the procession moved along Lenin Sarani and S. N. Banerjee Road via Moulali the number gradually swelled to more

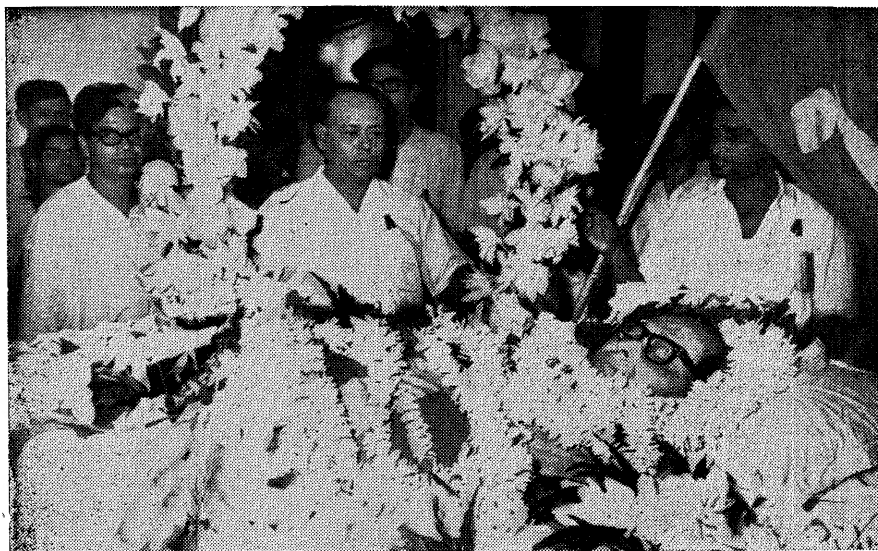
THE LAST

meaning. The revolutionary is dead, no doubt, but his life and rich qualities will remain ever fresh in the memory of men, of men who listen to the cry of humanity in the present age, actually engage themselves in the active struggle to change this world for the emancipation of the toiling people. It is an occasion of grief, but

Sudhin Pramanik, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani). On the vehicle carrying the body of Comrade Banerjee were the front-rank leaders of the Party, Comrades, Nihar Mukherjee, Hiren Sarkar, and others. Also were Com. Kalyani Banerjee and Sujata (wife and daughter of Comrade Banerjee), and eminent leaders of our

than tens of thousands and when it reached Chowringhee, many more people came in and joined the procession. It passed by the statue of the great working-class revolutionary leader Com. Lenin, a statue which was erected on the initiative of Com. Banerjee, a revolutionary fighter under the banner

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Our beloved leader, teacher and the General Secretary Com. Shibdas Ghosh paying his last homage. Com. Sachin Banerjee, Hiren Sarkar, Nihar Mukherjee, members of the Central Committee and others are seen standing by the side.



On the Left : The funeral procession starts from the Central Office along Lenin Sarani

On the Right : Party Workers singing "Internationale" in solemn atmosphere flanked by volunteers carrying half-mast Red Flags

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of Marxism-Leninism, and thoughts of Com. Shibdas Ghosh as a token of deep gratitude of the Indian toiling people toward Com. Lenin for his great teachings regarding the

International which was sung by the DYU and other units of the party all along the route to the funeral place, there was complete silence, but silence louder than storm, engulfed the whole proces-

spirit of the occasion. The party volunteers and people from all walks of life could not but join the procession out of their own volition to express their sincerest regard for one who has given away

Banerjee, in his address to the youths and students in the provincial conference of DSO held at Berhampore, West Bengal, last December had said, "After coming in contact with Com. Shibdas Ghosh at an early stage of my life I have learnt to visualise the dream of developing myself as a revolutionary. It is he who has taught me that only a proletarian revolutionary life is noble and worthy. As long as I live I shall hold aloft the banner of this revolutionary life. Today crores and crores of oppressed people are groaning under distress due to all-out capitalist exploitation. There can be no emancipation in the life of the oppressed people if a socialist society, free from exploitation is not established by breaking the chain of capitalism under the impact of revolution. Those amongst us, who have become old may not possibly make the revolution successful. The students and youths by engaging all their initiative and strength shall have to carry out this noble task of making the revolution successful." Comrade Subodh Banerjee till the last hour of his life has steadfastly carried out the great task of building up revolutionary struggle.

The burning place atmosphere, the air and sky reverberated with slogans "Red Salute to Comrade Subodh Banerjee" echoed by thousands of party volunteers and other people, interspersed with

the revolutionary song of Communist International.

With fisted hands raised, while paying red salute to Comrade Banerjee, their beloved leader, our Comrades made a solemn vow :

"Departing from us Comrade, you showed us how to hold high the banner of revolution. We vow to you Comrade, we will make ourselves worthy to hold high this banner.

"Departing from us Comrade, you, a life-long revolutionary adjured us to develop ourselves into revolutionaries under the guidance of your and our beloved leader and teacher, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. We vow to you Comrade, we will fulfil your behest with credit.

"Departing from us Comrade, you, one of the ardent disciples of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader and teacher, through your life-long struggles showed us how one should identify his self with the revolution, with the party. We vow to you Comrade, we will earnestly participate in the struggle for identifying the self with the revolution, with the party.

"We take pride Comrade, that ours is such a party under the revolutionary guidance and teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader and teacher that can create a life-long revolutionary, a first ranking leader of the exploited people like you who dedicated his whole life to the

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JOURNEY

working class movement. Beyond the statue proudly stands the Shaheed Minar, its present name also given by Com. Subodh Banerjee, a witness to many heroic struggles and stirring speeches of Com. Banerjee who on innumerable occasions called upon the working class and the other toiling people to mobilise themselves and close up their ranks to break the shackle of the tyrannical rule of Indian capitalists. It was here as the procession moved by, an old Punjabee, escorted by the party volunteers to the lorry wherein the body of Com. Banerjee was kept, completely broke into tears while offering a bouquet of flowers on his body. As the human wave was slowly proceeding, the pedestrians on both sides, people standing in the verandah and on house-tops looked in wonder at such a historic, disciplined and mile-long procession of dedicated revolutionary cadres paying their respects to their beloved leader. Except the revolutionary song of the Communist

sion and gripped the entire atmosphere conveying message of deep sorrow and further pledge to carry forward the cause of the departed revolutionary leader.

The long march of mourners from party Central office to the Keoratala burning ghat via Lenin Sarani, S. N. Banerjee Rd., Chowringhee, Cathedral Road, Acharya Jagadish Bose Road, Lansdowne Road, and Rasbehari Avenue took more than four hours during which all vehicular traffic in this route came to a standstill. Enroute the procession stopped at the office of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and Party Press on Lenin Sarani. Even those onlookers who do not bother much about politics and behaviour of different political parties could not fail to notice that every one in the procession, be he a boy in his early teens or an old man, behaved as a soldier, a revolutionary soldier, not troubling about the physical strain such a long trek naturally causes and not doing anything which mars the

everything personal and worked all the time for their cause. The stream of mourners came to a halt at the burning ghat.

Com. Banerjee is dead, but the memory of his glorious life will be cherished not only by those who came in personal touch with him, not only by his Comrades-in-arms who have relished his sweetness and been imbibed by his character, but also by the entire working class and the other toiling masses who are struggling hard to free themselves from the shackle of capitalist exploitation in our country. Those who have seen him closely know that party life is his whole life and he never fell back, never wavered from the cause of his party and revolution and never swamped by his tremendous popularity among all sections of the people, which can turn the head of even a seasoned revolutionary and make him betray revolution.

Sometime before his admission to the hospital for his illness Comrade

TRIBUTES

BIHAR

COM. SANKAR SINGH
Secretary,
Bihar State Committee

The Bihar State Committee records its deepest shock at the premature demise of Com. Banerjee, pays revolutionary homage to the departed leader, urges upon all the District Committees, comrades and supporters of our party and the people not to become swerved with emotion and calls upon them to engage themselves with greater revolutionary devotion in the struggle for fulfilling the desired task of the revered departed leader of the party and the people.

ORISSA

COM. TAPASH DUTTA,
Secretary,
Orissa State Committee

Since the period of our independence struggle and till the last days of his life, Comrade Banerjee conducted untiring struggle for the social, political, economic and cultural emancipation of the exploited people of our country.

As a mark of respect to his noble dedicated life we dip the red banner, and call upon our comrades, the supporters of our party and the people to firmly carry forward the unaccomplished tasks of the struggle for emancipation that he conducted till the last breath of his life.

YAKUB, PAILAN

Secretary,
Krishak O Khetmazoor
Federation

Comrade Subodh Banerjee, a most prominent leader of the people of India and particularly of West Bengal was the President of the West Bengal Krishak O Khetmazoor Federation.

He dedicated his life for the cause of the toiling people. In his death, the exploited people have lost a great leader.

ASSAM

**COM. ASIT
BHATTACHARYYA,**
Secretary,
Assam State Committee

We deeply mourn the premature demise of our beloved leader, Comrade Subodh Banerjee, a valiant fighter for the cause of the people of our country.

The high manner in which he held aloft the ideals of our party and served the cause of the working class of our country will always inspire us all. His struggling life will, therefore, always act as a source of inspiration to us in our future revolutionary struggles. On behalf of the members, sympathisers and supporters of the Assam State Committee of our party, we pay revolutionary respect to his memory.

HARYANA

**COM. GYAN SINGH
CHOUDHURY,**
Secretary,
Haryana State Organising
Committee

The great loss sustained by the working class movement of India at the premature demise of Com. Subodh Banerjee is ineffable. We firmly resolve to fulfil the unaccomplished task of revolution left by him.

KERALA

COM. J. JAMES,
Secretary,
Kerala State Organising
Committee

The working class of our country have lost an undaunted Communist revolutionary leader in the premature demise of Com. Banerjee. We pay our deepest revolutionary homage to the memory of this departed revered leader of our party and the working people of our country.

UTTARPRADESH

COM. V. N. SINGH,
Secretary,
Uttarpradesh State
Organising Committee

We are deeply overwhelmed with grief at the

sudden premature end of the life of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, the untiring valiant fighter, the beloved and revered leader of the teeming millions of the toiling people of our country.

We call upon our comrades and the working class of our country to take the solemn vow for carrying forward the unaccomplished task of the emancipation of the people for which our departed revered leader conducted a ceaseless struggle till the last days of his life.

DELHI

Delhi State Organising
Committee

There is no doubt that the exploited down-trodden people of our country has lost a great leader in his premature end. We record our deepest shock on his death and call upon the people of our country to whole-heartedly engage themselves in the revolutionary struggle for accomplishing the unfilled task left by their beloved and revered leader.

COM. CHHAYA MUKHERJEE

General Secretary,
All India Democratic
Students' Organisation

Comrade Subodh Banerjee, a most prominent and beloved leader of the people of India and particularly of West Bengal was life-long engaged in untiring struggle for the emancipation of all strata of the exploited people of our country including the students, youths, workers, peasants and others.

The role he played in the democratic struggles including students' movements of our country was unique and unprecedented of its kind.

We call upon the working people in general and the students' community in particular to come forward and as a mark of respect to their revered departed leader, take the venerable responsibility of fulfilling the unaccomplished task left over to us by Com. Banerjee.

HOMAGE AT PARTY WORKERS' MEETING

Only when and if leaders, workers, rank and file of the party follow Comrade Subodh Banerjee's example—his identification of self-interest, his everything personal—anger, love, sex, affection, popularity, self-respect—with the interest of the party and revolution, his ego-free acceptance of criticism of inadequacies and mistakes and come forward in strong determination to complete the unaccomplished task left by him, the emotion expressed at the meeting will have a true meaning—said Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, leader and teacher, General secretary of our party at the meeting of the party workers, supporters on 17th September at Mahajati Sadan, convened in memory of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, the lifelong revolutionary, member of the Central Committee and Polit Bureau, a first ranking leader of our party.

A flower-bedecked portrait stood at the right front of the dais, decorated with half-mast red flag. Comrade Hiren Sarkar, a senior member of the Central Committee presided. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh garlanding the portrait on behalf of the Central Committee paid his red salute. Spontaneously the members of the Central Committee, Secretaries of Behar, Orissa, Assam, and West Bengal State Committees and the members of the West Bengal State Committee at the dais saluted and simultaneously they were followed by the two thousand workers, supporters of the party in the auditorium. On behalf of the Mahajati Sadan employees a wreath was placed at the portrait to pay their homage.

DYO music squad then sang a memoir, composed by youth organiser Com. Prasanta Chakraborty which reverberated in the auditorium truly representing a deep respectful pathos for the departed

leader, overwhelmed by a firm determination to fulfil the unaccomplished task of socialist revolution of our country left by Comrade Subodh Banerjee. The song truly represented the mood and emotion of all present and all without exception had their eyes wet with tears.

Member of the West Bengal State Secretariat Comrade Manik Mukherjee then read out an adoration sent by Comrade Nalini Pramanik, one of the organisers of South 24 Parganas, who could not attend due to illness.

Com. Nihar Mukherjee, a member of the Central Committee and Secretary West Bengal State Committee, inaugurating the meeting, in an emotion-choked voice, expressed his deep reverence to the great revolutionary memory of Comrade Subodh Banerjee.

A condolence resolution was raised by Comrade Prithish Chanda, a member of the Central Committee, and all the party workers and supporters adopted it by observing one minute's silence.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the leader and teacher and General secretary of our Party then rose to pay his homage to the memory of the great revolutionary. Time and again his voice broke in emotion which infected many among the auditorium. Comrade General Secretary said that Com. Subodh Banerjee remained a revolutionary, undaunted and determined, till last breath of his life. He was a first ranking leader of the party. Comrades have expressed their emotions and tributes but if it was because we have lost a leader who was erudite, a good orator, an outstanding parliamentarian—this was no correct realisation of his character. In international as well as national plane many leaders—greater erudite, with greater oratorical power, with better parlia-

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Homage at Party Workers Meeting

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mentary records—were seen. Even in the communist movement of the world we found leaders of equal if not higher standard, so far these qualities are concerned, but very few of them could attain the quality Comrade Banerjee attained. This was possible only because he conducted a ceaseless struggle under the guidance of a party which have a correct base political line, a correct revolutionary ideology and a correct revolutionary leadership on Indian soil. Comrade Banerjee attained the standard where his self was identified with the party and revolution. He had no other private or personal life other than party life. He attained the standard where he had nothing personal and private separate from the party and revolution.

To attain such a standard was not an easy affair. But this standard is a must for all the first ranking leaders of our party.

Comrade General Secretary in a broken voice said that he was a very popular leader. And history has proved many a times that such a height of popularity, even much less than this, can easily spoil the character of a one time great revolutionary. Comrade Ghosh mentioned here facts which many of our Comrades observed, revealing that Com. Banerjee never did fall victim to false ego, never confuse himself, his purpose of revolution; never loose his head and never did anything that could disturb the unity of the party. Com. Banerjee took all criticisms in a revolutionary spirit. His sense of self-respect, his sense of dignity was so acutely and correctly identified with the purpose of revolution. This side of his character was, no doubt, a rare specimen even rarely found among the giant

Adherence to a Correct Political Line and Ceaseless Struggle Made Him a Rare Communist

Not political consciousness alone, Com. Banerjee attained a very high revolutionary ethical and cultural standard too—said Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the leader and teacher and General secretary of our party, while paying homage to his departed disciple, Comrade Subodh Banerjee in the memorial meeting at Saheed Minar Maidan on 23rd September.

Despite foul weather and intermittent torrential rain, thousands of people congregated at the meeting to pay homage to their departed leader.

The different roads of Chowringhee area and the Saheed Minar Maidan was decorated with half-mast red flags. The dais all in red with black borders with a big portrait of Comrade Banerjee at the middle with half-mast red flags on two sides and a banner reading "Red Salute Comrade Subodh Banerjee." wore an austere and sombre look befitting the occasion. A number of big demonstrations of workers, peasants, students and party workers marched to the meeting place.

With "Internationale" sung by DYO music squad the programme of the meeting started.

All state and district committees of our party, different left parties and mass organisations placed wreaths on the portrait of Com. Banerjee as a mark of homage.

Com. Shibdas Ghosh placed wreath on portrait of Com. Banerjee and DYO Music squad then sang the memoir composed in revolutionary memory of Comrade Banerjee. K O M S O M A L paid a march past red salute to Comrade Banerjee's portrait with half-mast red flags.

The meeting adopted a condolence resolution and observed one minute's

revolutionaries of the world.

Comrade General Secretary then with a spirit of rousing emotion said that the lessons of Comrade Banerjee's life are to be followed if anyone wants to build himself as a revolutionary.

DYO Music squad once more sang the memoir in conclusion.

silence.

In his presidential speech, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, a member of the Central Committee and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of our party said that Comrade Banerjee could emerge as a historic personality and establish himself through a life-long struggle as a true revolutionary Communist leader.

Leaders of different left parties, comrades, Abdulla Rasool of CPI(M), Nikhil Das of RSP, Geeta Mukherjee of CPI, Kanai Bhattacharyya of FB, Ram Chatterjee of MFB, Hemen Mukherjee of Workers Party, Bimalananda Mukherjee of RCPI and Barada Mukutmani of Bolshevik Party then spoke to pay their homage to Comrade Banerjee.

In a moving voice and language, Com. Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader, teacher and the General Secretary of the party paid his homage to Com. Subodh Banerjee. His voice was choked by great emotional waves and intermittent sobs. At times, his voice completely broke and to recover he took time. The whole gathering listened to this address of Com. Ghosh with tears in their eyes. Com. Ghosh said that Com. Subodh Banerjee was a first ranking leader of our party and a reputed and revered leader of the masses. He was a sincere, honest and dedicated communist. Com. Ghosh said that it will be unhistoric and untrue to say that such a leader, with such calibre, talent and spirit of sacrifice, did never appear before. Whoever knows history, knows that many a leaders with these qualities appeared before in democratic and revolutionary movements both in our country and in abroad.

But, he emphatically said that, what made him great were not these qualities. He was great because unlike many of the established leaders, he consistently struggled upto the last day of his life to implement in his own life what he used to believe in and preach in the open and thus reached to such a high stage of culture and ethics that he could always surrender most happily and voluntarily everything personal to the cause of revolution and party and even after reaching at the helm of immense popularity could save himself from falling victim to populism which at present is almost absent in most of the established leaders and which has broken the very morale of left, democratic and revolutionary movements of our country. Com. Ghosh said that he does not agree with those who say that talent and qualities of a man are in-born. He said that such a theory is unhistoric and unscientific. Most analytically he showed that man is born in a process and live in a process. How, in what way, with which outlook and ideology and with how much of calibre a man conducts his struggles—all these determine the course of his development. So, he said, man is the creation of a process, a creation of history; but man, by his thinking and ideas, by his struggle influences the course of history or even creates history. Com. Ghosh pointed out that the qualities for which the people loved and respected Com. Banerjee and for which he was great and a good communist did not drop from heaven. These are the product of a relentless and consistent political moral-ethical-cultural struggle, covering all aspects of life, basing on the concrete application of Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil led by our party, the SUCI. He said that we cannot show him respect properly if we fail to see this very process of struggle of which Com.

Com. Shibdas Ghosh

Subodh Banerjee is a great creation. In a most moving and emotional voice Com. Ghosh said that our Comrades and the people can show Com. Banerjee real respect if they can appreciate and involve themselves in the political-cultural-ethical struggle that made Com. Subodh Banerjee a great revolutionary leader. In reply to a query from some of the party friends—"why during Com. Banerjee's funeral, no rituals were observed while even in case of many communist leaders, these have been observed",—Com. Ghosh said that for both the believers and the non-believers, to preach one thing and to practice a different thing in personal life is not only inconsistent but also a hypocrisy. In an analytical discussion he showed how this hypocritical behaviour have broken the moral-ethical backbone of the communist movement in India. He said that the SUCI has been conducting a moral-cultural-ethical movement with Marxist-Leninist outlook and for this honest and sincere struggle of the SUCI, the people have great faith in this party and are looking into it with great hope and expectation. Such a hypocritical act, he said, would have not only maligned the image of Com. Subodh Banerjee but also shaken the very foundation of the belief of the people and the hope of revolution. With tears in eyes Com. Ghosh concluded that from the very formation of our party Com. Subodh Banerjee was one of his Comrades-in-arms and his death is a great loss to our party and revolution no doubt. But, he said that people would surely come forward to impair this loss.

AN APOLOGY

We hope to publish the names of different Political Parties, innumerable Mass organisations and prominent personalities who paid their homage to the departed leader which we could not in this issue for want of space.

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The Last Journey

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cause of the revolution and the party.

"We vow to you Comrade, that guided by the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader and teacher—the very leadership that you were life-long proud of, and through the path illumined by him—the very path that you with the deepest respect accepted as the only way of your struggling revolutionary life, we will fulfil the unaccomplished task of revolution you left over to us.

Red salute, Comrade."



The Last Journey: Members of Komsomol Parading Along Moulali Crossing.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S HOMAGE

(Contd. from Page 1)
happily and unconditionally everything personal for identifying his own self with the party and revolution in tune with the revolutionary thought, ideals and outlook of our

party will ever remain a glaring example, a model and a source of inspiration to all the conscious revolutionaries of our country.

"The Central Committee is of firm conviction that

in order to fill the void created in the party and to make good the great loss sustained by the revolutionary movement of our country at his premature end, all the leaders, workers and

supporters of our party as well as the people will join their strength and firmly come forward to fulfil the unaccomplished task left by him.

"The Central Committee asks all the party

committees to dip the Red Flag in all offices as a mark of respect to the departed leader, as a part of the week-long mourning to be observed from 16th to 23rd of September."

A Life-Long Revolutionary

(Contd from page 3)
improvements on payment of wages and compensation due to accident, amendments of Industrial Disputes Act to extend its jurisdiction to educational and other institutions and to make the recognition of trade unions obligatory to the management could not be enacted.

Comrade Banerjee left the imprint of his efficiency also as the PWD Minister in the second UF Government in 1969. After assuming the charge of this ministry, he removed the statues of the imperialist rulers and other relics of imperialist rule from the heart of Calcutta, twenty two years after independence. At the same time by installing the statue of Kshudiram, the revolutionary martyr and by altering the names of Dalhousie Square, Anderson House and Octorlony Monument to Benoy-Badal-Dinesh Bag, Bhabani

Bhavan and Saheed Minar respectively, gave the revolutionary trend of our freedom struggle the deserving recognition, the trend which the compromising bourgeois class of India, so far did not recognise. Besides these, he also made out a plan for installing the statue of Surya Sen, and other revolutionary martyrs. After the fall of the UF Government, the Congress Government did not take any further step to materialise his plan. Moreover, in the Birth-Centenary of Lenin, the noble leader of the World Communist Movement and the founder of the first Socialist State in the world, it was Comrade Banerjee, who during his short tenure as the PWD Minister, made all the necessary arrangements for erecting a huge statue of Lenin at Dharamtola and for bringing that from Soviet Russia.

Comrade Subodh Banerjee, in his numerous speeches as a member of the West Bengal Assembly, unmasked parliamentary democracy with the help of numerous facts and data. His eloquent oratory was universally appreciated.

During the Congress regime due to his leading role in the mass-movements conducted on the democratic demands of the exploited mass of people and his effort to build up revolutionary organisation among them, he was arrested several times and had to suffer severe tortures. Upto 1967 he was the Chief Editor of "GANADABI" the Bengali organ of SUCI and the Editor of "SOCIALIST UNITY" the English organ of the party. He proved his worth as a powerful writer also, through many a article.

Comrade Subodh

Banerjee, went to Peking in 1952, as the Indian delegate to attend the South East Asian Peace Conference and to Moscow in 1972 as an invited Trade Union representative of India to attend the May Day Celebration. Even in abroad, he held aloft the proletarian revolutionary trend of the working-class movement of India.

The incurable Leukemia disease was first detected in him when he was the Labour Minister in 1967. In spite of being conscious that he was approaching very fast and within a very limited period, his last days as a patient of blood cancer, he heartily undertook and fulfilled any responsibility in the matter of building up party organisation and developing democratic movements in the country upto the end of his life with full enthusiasm and initiative. Even when he was in death bed, any moment he felt slight relief he engaged himself in certain writings of the party. He passed

his whole life remaining indomitably firm and completely dedicated to the very revolutionary ideology of Marxism-Leninism which covered all aspects of his life.

Before departing, Comrade Subodh Banerjee could see with unbound pleasure that the sapling that he along with the old guards of our party were nurturing all these years had already struck roots deep in Indian Soil. SUCI is emerging with growing strength and vigour as the party of the proletariat to fulfil the historic task of Socialist Revolution and to create a society free from all sorts of exploitation.

The Party vows to carry forward the task to make Comrade Banerjee's dream a reality. Comrade Subodh Banerjee's life will ever remain before us and the coming generations of revolutionaries of our country, as a burning flame of revolutionary zeal and dedication.